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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER,
1818.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, inserted in our last number, at page 327, is a document which presents several important points for consideration; more important, we conceive, than a first and hasty perusal would induce one to believe. Its style is of that plain, unadorned kind, which suits the subject, and which is characteristic of the soundness of intellect by which it has been framed. It is a State Paper, which, as to its composition, does honor to the strong minds aiding in its formation.

The first prominent point that arrests our attention is the negotiations now in train with Great Britain. The object of government, it seems, and we think it a very laudable one, is to seize the moment of prevailing peace to adjust differences which may arise in time of war: such, in particular, is the topic of impressment—the theme of so much discord between America and Great Britain; and which, in our opinion, never will be settled unless at a time when the naval interests of the British empire do not require the exercise of injustice for the preservation of maritime ascendancy. Such a period is the present; and we cannot doubt but that it will be well improved by Messrs. RUSH and GALLATIN. The Fisheries are also a vital point, an arrangement concerning which cannot be long delayed without giving rise to feuds between our hardy fishermen of New England and the jealous subjects of Great Britain in North America. There have already been some sparks of animosity manifested between them, and it is extremely desirable that they should be speedily extinguished. *There are fish enough in the sea for all the Nations of the Earth.*—The Boundaries between the territories of the two countries is daily growing into consideration, as a subject for arrangement. So long as our western country remained a wilderness, it was, perhaps, sufficient that the line of separation should remain ideal. But now that our population is pushing far westward; now that it has crossed the Mississippi, and is actually looking towards the Pacific Ocean, the boundary line must be attended to. Ideal marks

will no longer answer: they must be practical: it must be rendered clear where Canada ends and where the United States and their territories begin. It is, indeed, a wise forecast that attends to these points in time, and precludes, by prevention, the occurrence of wars which cannot be avoided unless a satisfactory arrangement should be entered into, when, as at present, the passions are unflamed by acrimonious disputations and unfriendly feelings.—Whilst negotiations on these topics are going on, it appears that the convention of the 3d. of July, 1815, and which will expire during the next year, is, to prevent inconveniences, to be continued "for a term not less than eight years." This is also a prudential measure: But we do not clearly perceive how it can be "agreed" to continue that convention, at least on the part of the United States, without submitting it anew to the Senate. In July next it will be actually defunct, and no longer the supreme law of the land. We presume, therefore, that the President's meaning is, that if no new treaty can be formed between the end of the present session of Congress and the beginning of the next, the British Government having agreed to continue the existing convention, it will then, as a new treaty, be referred, for such continuance, to the approbation of the Senatorial body. It will undoubtedly be wise to preserve even this arrangement if nothing preferable can be procured: for it is much better to have a bad rule of trade than no rule at all; as, in the case of there being no rule, our commerce and navigation would be liable to the caprice of a foreign power.

The chief obstacle to the formation of a commercial convention with Great Britain is her colonial policy. She will not let us participate, through our own shipping, in the trade with her colonies. All our ports are laid open to her; only a portion of her ports are laid open to us. It is to be hoped that she will see this subject in a more liberal light, and that she will permit a free competition of nautical skill and industry throughout the whole extent of her dominions. Her rigid navigation system was well calculated for the times in which there was no independent nation on this side of the Atlantic: but growing up, as we are, into a great commercial and naval power, it may be well for her to calculate whether our friendship is not worth more to her than the precarious profits to be derived from the selfish and exclusive reservation of the colonial trade to herself.—All the nations of Europe holding colonies follow the example of Great Britain. It is from that

cause that our ministers in Europe—in France, in Holland—have failed in attempts to negotiate treaties of commerce with those states. Great Britain sets them the fashion; and until the *mode* is changed at London, it will be followed at Paris and at the Hague. It is with this colonial trade as it was with the slave-trade. Great Britain herself never abandoned the latter until America had taken steps which impelled her to do it; and no sooner had she *followed suit*, than she pressed and induced every European sovereign to do the same. In this, Great Britain adopts the maxim of Napoleon in regard to the continental system. *She will not allow to others, in trade, that which she does not enjoy herself.*

The next point upon which we fix our attention, is our relations with Spain. Of that power we can scarcely bring ourselves to speak with the temper which decorum requires. Her unfounded pretensions; her eternal *procrastinations*; her fraudulent purchases of time upon *false pretences*; disgust, and almost irritate the mind. *Delay* is the grand secret of Spanish diplomacy. It is with her as with a deceitful debtor; it is forever—“*call to-morrow.*” In 1802 a convention of indemnity was made with her and ratified by the American Government: after *sixteen years of refusal*, Spain finally ratifies it. We think we are on the point of seeing this treaty fulfilled; when, lo! upon fresh pretexts, it is *delayed*. It is thus, that, estimating our forbearance by an interminable line, she plays with our patience, sports with justice, and, like the phantoms of the night, cheats our vision with unreal images, which, as we approach them, elude our amicable grasp. The port-folio of Don Luis de Onis is a mere magic lantern, from which he presents to our eyes the forms and figures furnished him by his court. But let this diplomatic conjurer beware! He may weary his audience: his grossness of hypocrisy may even inspire them with anger: and then, rushing by the shadows which have so long flitted before them, that audience, the government, the American people, will seize the master of the show, take possession of his implements of deception and of his household, and, by a *coup-de-main*, put an end to the thousand illusions which have been so long endured, but which have never deceived.

It is not in the least difficult to comprehend the policy of Spain. She has applied to the Allied Sovereigns to interpose for the accommodation of differences between herself and colonies: Until they can interfere with effect, she wishes to *annoy* the American government, and thinks she will afterwards be able to terrify it. It is for this purpose she has assumed so many positions. The negotiation has been transferred from Washing-

ton to Madrid and from Madrid to Washington, even more than once: *Now* she is willing to cede the Floridas, but couples the cession with an inadmissible condition: *Then* she will pay the debts due to our merchants, if the United States will preserve a more than usually strict neutrality; but when the payment is demanded, it is proposed to discharge only a small part of what is due. *Next*, even this small part is delayed; and new orders, we suppose, must come from Madrid before Don Luis de Onis can move another step.

If there ever was a nation that stood convicted, as a criminal, at the bar of the world, it is Spain. She has insulted us in the person of her minister Yrujo; she has despoiled us of our property; and she has basely violated the treaty of 1795. *Could* she do more? We have long and patiently waited for indemnity; we have driven the plunderers from her territory; we have had to fulfil, *for her*, the treaty of 1795. In every stage of her unjust conduct she has shown nothing but insolence or duplicity. And why have we forborne? *Why?* Because she was *unfortunate and feeble*. We pitied her sufferings and her sorrows, and we have disdained to strike a pigmy struggling for life in the clutch of the military giant of the age; and not yet recovered from the effects of her struggles.

In the disputes between the United States and Spain the Allied Sovereigns have no concern, nor will they be allowed to meddle. In proportion as the United States have been mindful of the rights of other nations, they will be firm in defence of their own. If, on the supposition of an impertinent interference, we were to calculate resources, what have we to fear? It has taken *all Europe* to guard France: what, then, in that condition, could all Europe do against us? *The Principles of Liberty*, prevalent in Germany as well as in France, will convince the monarchs, that, if they can send an army of mercenaries to combat with us, we have, *in the hearts of their own subjects at home*, a still more powerful host to fight in our favor.

The treaty of 1802, between the United States and Spain, now announced as having been, after such a lapse of time, ratified by the latter power, provides for certain claims upon the Spanish government; but to what amount we are not informed, nor are we told the class of claims thus provided for. According to our recollection of the treaty of 1802, or at least the discussions which the refusal of Spain sixteen years ago to ratify it gave rise to, it provided for indemnity for the loss of property in consequence of the condemnations of American vessels and merchandise brought into Spanish ports by French privateers, and adjudicated there by French consular tribunals, as well as for spoiliations committed by

cruisers under the flag of Spain. We are not sure, however, that our recollection is entirely accurate. The public, we know, are anxious to ascertain precisely what the "certain portion" is, which is mentioned in the Message. We regret that we are unable to gratify this anxiety.

The ratification of this treaty by Spain, at the present moment, is a stroke of diplomacy worthy the sagacity of the court of Madrid. To whom it owes its origin in particular we know not; but it would seem to have sprung from the brain of either Don Luis de Onis or Mr. Secretary Pizarro. Let us try if we can fathom the motive of this sage contrivance.

In preceding negotiations Mr Onis has found himself much embarrassed by the claims, some part of which this treaty of 1802 is intended to provide for. They were so just that he could neither evade nor answer the argument advanced in their behalf: besides, as long as they were unsatisfied, all the claimants would naturally be united against Spain by interest; and they are no inconsiderable number of our merchants. To dis-embarrass himself and his government from the pressure of our demands for these claims, therefore, we presume Mr. Onis wrote home to his court that it would be well to ratify the treaty of 1802. He had previously offered us the Floridas. Now we shall see how this will work; and indeed it is working in the newspapers, and especially in the Philadelphia *Aurora*, at this moment. Let us suppose the Don speaking in *propria persona*:

"Here (says he) my sovereign offers to transfer Florida to you, which you so much want. He has also ratified the convention of 1802, to satisfy the claims of your citizens for property lost through the medium of Spain. What, then, remains to dispute about? Why, simply, the western boundary of Louisiana. Is it worth while to continue on bad terms merely on that account?"

By this kind of argument Don Luis de Onis might think he would draw over to his side of the question, 1st. The American claimants under the treaty of 1802;* 2d. All those who are excessively anxious for the possession of Florida; and, 3d. Those who wish an end put to our differences with Spain as soon as possible, for fear of an eventual belligerent rupture.

This we take to be the whole mystery of this diplomatic manœuvre. And what does it amount to? Let us proceed numerically:

1. Spain offers to cede the Floridas. But on what terms? Not, you will observe, solely in pay-

* We do not mean to say that the American claimants would, in any case, take part with Spain against the United States, merely for the sake of obtaining payment of their claims; but only that the Spanish minister may have calculated that they would do so.

ment of the honest claims of our citizens; for that alternative had been offered to her by our government long before. No. The cession of Florida is made also a territorial question; and is only to be ceded for the relinquishment, on our part, of a large tract of valuable territory on the western frontier of the state of Louisiana, which is to be in addition to the payment of the claims of our citizens. And what would be the effect of such a cession? Why, the United States would give for the Floridas a fine body of land, to which they have a lawful title, and which is infinitely more valuable than the Floridas, and would, moreover, have to pay their own citizens in money for the spoliation of Spain! Florida might, indeed, in this manner, be secured to us: but who, in that case, would be the dupe?

2. Spain has ratified the convention of 1802. But that convention is imperfect: it does not provide for all the just claims of our citizens. And if it even did provide for them all, the claimants could not get paid. There is no money in the Spanish treasury wherewith to pay them. It is well known that, in a short excursion which king Ferdinand not long ago made from Madrid, money was wanting to defray his expenses. In such a state of abject poverty, how can the claimants expect payment? In truth, Spain never contemplated the payment of a dollar in cash. She has calculated that our government would be so eager to get possession of the Floridas, and that our citizens would be so anxious to realize the amount of their claims, that the President would gladly satisfy the claimants and give up all title to territory beyond the boundaries of the state of Louisiana. In ratifying the treaty of 1802, therefore, Spain offers nothing. On her part it is all a shadow: the substance she wishes to extract from the United States.

3. In connexion with this head of our subject we must consider the Seminole war, which was countenanced, and probably excited, by Spain, for the very obvious purpose of quickening our desire to get possession of the Floridas, and in furtherance of the general scheme planned by Don Luis de Onis or by Mr. Pizarro. On making the Indians troublesome, it was natural to infer that the United States would more eagerly desire the incorporation of the Floridas into their territory; for, as every body knows, an Indian war is attended with bloodshed and much expenditure of treasure. Considering what a horrible use the Spaniards have, on this occasion, made of the poor Indians; considering that they have urged them to war merely to further the diplomatic negotiations of Spain; we cannot avoid expressing our opinion that the President has taken by far too much pains to explain the propriety of Gen. Jackson's con-

duct in Florida during the Seminole war. Such an explanation is not due to Spain. It may, indeed, be due to the rest of the world, and in that light no doubt the President viewed it. So far from an explanation to Spain, we have a right to make a demand of her: we have a right to demand that she shall pay all the expenses of the Seminole war after Gen. Jackson crossed the Floridian frontier; because she is bound by treaty to restrain the Indians within her borders; and, having failed to do that, she renders herself liable for all the consequences.

This part of the topic is so obvious to the understanding of any reader, that it is not necessary to dwell further upon it; but we cannot entirely quit it without adverting to the deep and dark criminality of the Spanish government in relation to the Seminoles. In vindicating her own revenue laws, the United States seized upon Amelia Island: the occupation of that place saved to Spain the Floridas from the grasp of a daring and formidable banditti, which she could not herself have successfully resisted. Mark the contrast! Spain sets on the Indians to murder our defenceless citizens, affords the murderers an asylum in her forts, and blames the United States for entering Florida in order to chastise these savages. We saved her subjects from the sword of the merciless pirates; and, she, in return, massacred our citizens with the tomahawk of the unrelenting Seminoles. Bloody ingratitude! and suited alone to the gloomy genius of the Holy Inquisition.

The next prominent point of the Message which forces itself upon our observation, is the correspondence between the United States and South America. We frankly confess that we have been among those who have been much deceived with respect to the situation of the Spanish provinces, and of those on La Plata in particular. There is by no means that *unity* which we had supposed existed in that quarter. Without any reference whatever to Artigas and his followers, it seems that there are several independent sections, which have grown out of the fragments of the Spanish colonial empire. "Entre Rios, Paraguay, and the city of Santa Fe," are all "independent." *Independence* is very well, as far as it relates to Old Spain; but to this ought to be added perfect *union* among themselves. The only close union that exists, as far as we can learn from the Message and Documents, is between Buenos Ayres and Chile, and these two states are separated by the Andes. Still, however, there is much to hope for from the noble efforts of the Patriots; and they have been so persevering, and exhibited such worthy traits of character, that the President might, perhaps, be disposed, at this time, to recognise the

independence of some of them, were it not for another circumstance, which, being introduced into the Message, has had, we conceive, a controlling weight with the Executive. We allude to "a circular note addressed by the ministers of Spain to the Allied Powers with whom they are 'respectively accredited,' and from which note 'it appears that the allies have undertaken to 'mediate between Spain and the South American 'provinces, and that the manner and extent of 'their interposition would be settled by a Congress, which was to have met at Aix-la-Chapelle 'in September last.' The President 'infers that 'they will confine their interposition to the expression of their sentiments; abstaining from the 'application of force.' The reader will recollect that, in a late number of this Register, [page 272, vol. VI.] we assigned our reasons for believing the "circular note" here referred to not to be authentic. We were, it now appears, mistaken; for it cannot for an instant be doubted that the President, with all the advantages of genuine information from our foreign legations, is well advised of the progress of affairs in the different cabinets of Europe. The Allied Powers, then, have resolved to interfere. This fact well ascertained, it is prudent, in the highest degree, for the government of the United States to pause: that is, to *stand still*, until they can see what grows out of the congress of sovereigns now assembled at Aix-la-Chapelle, in the Netherlands. It is always discreet, when you do not know where you are, or whether you are going, to *stop*, stand still, and *wait for light*. We should be truly sorry to see the United States, in their present stage of political existence, recognise the independence of any power, which all the rest of the civilized nations of the earth disavowed, or which they might combine to put down; and which power itself might, possibly, yield to seductions destructive of its own independence. Placed in such a situation, the American government would be exceedingly mortified or extremely ridiculous. It is impossible to tell what inducements may be held out to the colonies; and it is likewise impossible to foresee what influence the inducements which may be held out to them may have with them. Their union is feeble; their population harassed by desolating conflicts: they may embrace flattering offers, and for the present accept of a modified independence. Nations, like individuals, do not always know themselves. Let us see them tried by these offers; and if they withstand the temptation; if they will accept of nothing but absolute independence; then we may safely trust to their energy for the rest. Under such aspects, no man will hesitate to approve the sound discretion which has decided the President to preserve unchanged the

position of this country towards South America—a position essentially friendly; but which is aloof from all entangling recognitions or alliances.

Should the Allied Powers not employ force, the effect of their interposition will be altogether in favor of the Patriots. The very appeal to them by Old Spain is in favor of the Patriots. It is the acknowledgment of an equality where there has hitherto existed nothing but servitude. The Patriots expect no military aid from the Allies; therefore the refusal to use force, will leave the Patriots just where they are; that is, to fight out the battle with Spain single-handed. But the decision of the Allied Sovereigns will, one way or another, affect the interests of Old Spain. The Sovereigns will declare how far they approve of the pretensions of the mother country; and that, at least, will be a limit to the authority of Old Spain. Beyond that limit, as far as sentiment is concerned, Spain will be barred; and barred by the dictum of a tribunal selected by herself.

Yet, although we pay due respect to the opinion of the President, and greatly rely on the accuracy of his information, we are apprehensive that the sovereigns will go a little farther than "the expression of their sentiments." They are prone to intermeddle; and once they interpose, their vanity seldom allows them, if they have the means, to suffer their determinations to be nugatory. Doctrines of *legitimacy*, which, in the case of Napoleon, we have seen break all the ties of friendship, gratitude, and personal consanguinity, may prevail, and lead to covert, if not open, aid to Old Spain. Ships and money is what she chiefly wants; and these may be furnished on various pretexts. We have seen that the "magnanimous" emperor of Russia has already acted a part of this kind, by selling to Spain several of his ships of war. Imperial and royal pledges to "abstain from the application of force," may be easily eluded by deeds of bargain and sale. The event will show that the British government is the grand mover in this affair; and the Patriots have every thing to fear from its double game of European continental arrangements and commercial monopoly.

Turning from our foreign relations to our domestic concerns, we are glad to find a surplus of cash in the treasury; works of defence prosecuted; the navy increasing; the Indians tranquillized by treaties, which must compel them either to incorporate themselves with the whites or to retire across the Mississippi; and the addition of another state to the union, making in all twenty-one states, and adding another star to our national banner. Upon several, if not upon all, of these topics, we have something brief to say; and we would say it now, but that our columns are already crowded by

the length of this article and by the conclusion of Mr. Rodney's Report concerning South America. We shall resume our observations the ensuing week.

Conclusion of Mr. Rodney's Report concerning the Provinces of La Plata.

The wars that arose from the French revolution, have produced in Europe changes of the greatest magnitude, which have had an immense influence on the affairs of South America. When Spain joined France against the combined princes, she exposed her distant possessions to British hostilities. The great naval power of England gave her ready access to the American colonies. Engaged in an arduous contest, she was prompted by her feelings and interests to retaliate on Spain the conduct she experienced from her during the war of our independence. Encouraged, perhaps, by the councils of her enemies, the first symptoms of insurrection, in the continental possessions of Spain, were exhibited in the year 1797, in Venezuela. These were succeeded by the attempts of Miranda in the same quarter, which were accompanied, or were followed, since the vacillating state of the Spanish monarchy, by revolutionary movements in Mexico, Grenada, Peru, Chile, and Buenos Ayres; and from which scarcely any part of the Spanish dominions in America has been entirely exempt.

The occurrences that led the way to the subsequent important events in the provinces of La Plata, were the invasion of the British under Popham and Beresford in the year 1806, and their expulsion a few months afterwards, by the collected forces of the country under Liniers and Pueyrredon. These incidents fortunately gave to the people a just idea of their own strength, and they afterwards repelled, with a firmness and bravery that did them great honor, the formidable attack of the British under general Whitlocke.

The wretched state to which Spain was reduced by the policy, the power, and the arts, of Napoleon, the resignation of Charles the IVth in favor of Ferdinand the VIIth, and the renunciation by both, in favor of Napoleon, were productive of the most important results. They threw the kingdom into the greatest confusion. The alternate successes and disasters of the French armies, produced a new era in Spain. The people generally revolted at the idea of being governed by the brother of Napoleon, to whom he had transferred the crown. Juntas were established, who acted in the name of Ferdinand, then confined in France. These were substituted for the ancient Cortes and the regular council of the nation, to which, in times of imminent danger, they ought to have recurred, agreeably to their usages. Conflicting authorities produced a distracted state of affairs. In the scenes that ensued, the proper attention was not paid to the American provinces. Their conduct towards them was versatile and inconsistent; they were lost sight of or neglected, until it was too late: Conceiving they were abandoned by the parent state, they thought it justifiable to act for themselves. It was not very long before the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres, embracing the example of their brethren in Spain, established a junta, which assumed the reins of government, and finally, in the year 1810, sent off the viceroy

Cisneros, and his principal adherents. For a summary of events subsequent to this period, until the time of my departure, I beg leave to refer to the outline subjoined (Appendix A) from the pen of Dr. Funes, drawn up in part at my request. Without vouching for the perfect accuracy of the work, I think, from the information received, it will probably be found to contain, in general, a correct and impartial sketch of the prominent transactions and occurrences.

In perusing this interesting document, I have to lament that its pages are marked with some cases of severity and cruelty, which seem almost inseparable from great revolutions. It must however, be consoling to observe, that they appear to have passed through that state, which might possibly have rendered examples necessary, and to have arrived, perhaps, at that stage, when the passions, becoming less turbulent, and the people more enlightened, a milder system may be expected to prevail.

Their dissensions have produced most of their calamities. In such seasons they were naturally to be expected. But their disputes have been principally healed by the prudent and energetic measures of the congress, which commenced its sittings in Tucuman in the year 1815, and adjourned in the year following from thence to Buenos Ayres, where it remained in session, occupied with the task of forming a permanent constitution. This respectable body, besides acting as a convention, or a constituent assembly, exercised temporarily legislative powers. Their sittings are public, with a gallery of audience for citizens and strangers. The debates are frequently interesting, and are conducted with ability and decorum; they are published every month for the information of the people.

The dispute with Artigas, the chief of the Orientals, has not been adjusted. This, with a certain jealousy of the superior influence of the city of Buenos Ayres on the general affairs of the provinces, the conduct of the government of Buenos Ayres towards the Portuguese, and the high tariff of duties, which I understand have been since reduced, appeared to constitute the principal causes of dissatisfaction at the time of my departure.

The declaration by Congress of that independence which they had for many years previously maintained in fact, was a measure of the highest importance, and has been productive of an unanimity and a decision before unknown. This summit of their wishes was only to be reached by slow and gradual progress. The public mind had to be luminous on the subject by their pulpits, their presses, and their public orations. The people were to be prepared for the event. When the season arrived, they cut the knot which could not be untied. The declaration of Independence was adopted in the directorship of Mr. Pueyrredon, on the 9th day of July, 1816. It was succeeded by an able exposition of the causes that extorted it, to justify, to the fellow-citizens and to the world, the measure they had deliberately voted to support with their fortunes and their lives.

Believing the latter paper might be thought worthy of perusal, a translation has been annexed (Appendix B).

The salutary influence of this bold and decisive step was at once felt throughout the country. It gave new life and strength to the patriotic cause, and stability to the government. The victories of Chacabuco and Maipu, achieved by the arms

of Chile and Buenos Ayres, have produced and confirmed a similar declaration of independence by the people of Chile, which is also annexed, (Appendix C.) and cemented the cordial union existing between the confederate states. The consequence has been, that, within these extensive territories, there is scarcely the vestige of a royal army to be found, except on the borders of Peru.

Having thus, in connexion with the succinct account given by Dr. Funes, traced the principal events since the revolution in Buenos Ayres, I shall proceed to state the result of the information received, according to the best opinion I could form, of the extent, population, government, and resources, of the United Provinces, with their productions, imports, and exports, trade and commerce.

The late vice royalty of Buenos Ayres, of which that city was the metropolis, was by many considered the largest, as well as the most valuable, of all the Spanish dominions in South America, extending in a direct line, from its north to its south boundary, a distance of more than two thousand miles; and from its eastern to its western, not less than eleven hundred.

It was composed, at the commencement of the revolution, of the nine provinces, or intendencias following: Buenos Ayres, Paraguay, Cordova, Salta, Potosi, La Plata, Cochabamba, La Paz and Puno.

Watered by the great river La Plata and its numerous tributary streams, which afford an easy communication with countries of an immense extent, and furnishing an easy access to the treasures of South America, it has always been regarded by Spain as one of her most precious acquisitions. Enjoying every variety of climate to be found between different and distant latitudes, and blessed with a large portion of fertile soil, it is capable of producing all that is to be found in the temperate or torrid zones. Immense herds of cattle and horses graze on its extensive plains, and constitute at this time their principal source of wealth. The mines of Potosi are also included within its boundaries. There are no woods for a very considerable distance from Buenos Ayres. No forest trees are to be seen on the widely extended pampas, except at intervals a solitary umboo. After passing the Saladillo, in a northerly direction the woods begin, and proceeding in the upper provinces, the hills appear, and mountains rise in succession, interspersed with rich vallies. On the east side of the rivers La Plata and Parana the country is said to be very fine. The Entre Rios is represented as capable of being made a garden spot; and the Banda Oriental presents hills and dales, rich bottoms, fine streams of water, and, at a distance from the great river on the banks of the smaller streams, some excellent woodland. Between Maldonada and Monte Video, the east ridge of the Cordilleras terminates on the river La Plata.

Since the revolution, five more provinces have been erected, making, in all, fourteen within the limits of the ancient vice royalty, viz: Tucuman taken from Salta, Mendoza or Cuyo, taken from Cordova, Corrientes, Entre Rios, comprising the country between the Uruguay and the Parana, and the Banda Oriental, or Eastern Shore of the river La Plata. The two last were taken from the province of Buenos Ayres, which was thus reduced to the territory on the south side of that

river. The subordinate divisions of the country, with the principal towns, will be found in the appendix to this report, with an account of the produce or manufactures of the different districts. (Appendix D.)

Of the fourteen provinces into which the ancient vice royalty is now divided, five were, at my departure, principally occupied by the royal forces, (which, in consequence of the victory of Maipu, were expected soon to retreat to lower Peru,) or partially under their influence, viz: Potosi, La Plata, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Puno; and the nine following independent, *de facto*, of Spain, were in the possession of the patriots, viz: Buenos Ayres, Paraguay, Mendoza, Salta, Corrientes, Entre Rios, and Banda Oriental. But Paraguay and the city of Santa Fe act independently of Buenos Ayres. Though Paraguay is not on unfriendly terms with them, and it is hoped by some will before long join the union. Entre Rios and the Banda Oriental, under general Artigas, in the character of chief of the Orientals, are in a state of hostility with Buenos Ayres.

Monte Video, the capital of the Eastern Shore, was occupied by a Portuguese army, and a squadron of ships of war from Brasil blockaded the ports of Colonia and Maldonado, and prohibited the entrance of neutral vessels, unless they paid them the same duties on their cargoes that were charged on the importation of the goods when landed in the country.

The territory of the United Provinces is computed to contain one hundred and fifty thousand square leagues, though it probably exceeds that quantity. The lands occupied in the country, remote from the cities, are generally converted by their owners into estancias, or large grazing farms for cattle, and charcas for growing grain. The small farms, or quintas, in the neighborhood of cities, are in fine order. Those around Buenos Ayres, which furnish their market with an ample supply of fruit and vegetables, are, by irrigation, in the highest state of culture.

The population, exclusive of the Indians, is now calculated at about one million three hundred thousand: but adding the civilized Indians only, who are of great importance, it would, in all, probably exceed two millions.

The whole population consists of natives of Old Spain, and their descendants born in the country, or, as they style themselves, South Americans; of Indians civilized, or unreclaimed, with different "casts," or mixed blood; of Africans, and their descendants, or negroes and mulattoes.

I could not ascertain with satisfaction the population of the different provinces: the province of Buenos Ayres contains about one hundred and twenty thousand, whilst the population of Entre Rios and Banda Oriental is computed at fifty thousand.

The city of Buenos Ayres contains a population of sixty thousand. The inhabitants of this place appear to be an amiable and an interesting people. They are considered brave and humane; possessing intelligence, capable of great exertions and perseverance, and manifesting a cheerful devotion to the cause of freedom and independence.

There is also a certain mediocrity and equality of fortune prevailing among them, extremely favorable to a union of the popular sentiment in support of the common weal. Many industrious mechanics and enterprising merchants are, howe-

ver, increasing their estates, and adding to the stock of capital in the country.

The people of the province of Buenos Ayres, residing out of the city, are, generally speaking, poor, and rather indolent; though a hardy race, and, when excited to action, they become zealous defenders of the liberties of their country. They are capable of great improvement, and under the influence of a good example, when a change takes place in their habits and manner of living, they bid fair to become useful and industrious citizens.

The inhabitants of Cordova are said to be more superstitious, and more industrious, but less patriotic. This is principally attributed to the loss of the trade with Peru, occasioned by the revolutionary war.

Tucuman, I was informed, possessed an excellent population.

The people of Mendoza, or Cuyo, are moral, industrious, and patriotic. They have sacrificed largely at the shrine of independence, supporting, with zeal and confidence, the cause of their country: whilst the citizens of Santa Fe are represented as immoral and insubordinate, and manifesting, on most occasions, an extreme jealousy of their neighbors.

The population of Entre Rios and Banda Oriental is perhaps not inferior in valor to that of Buenos Ayres. Nor is it deficient in military skill, particularly in carrying on a partizan warfare, for which its troops are admirably adapted. Their other good qualities have been probably somewhat impaired by the system pursued in that quarter, where they have been compelled to give up every thing like civil avocations, and to continue, without any regular kind of government, under the absolute control of a chief, who, whatever may be his political principles or professions, in practice concentrates all power, legislative, judicial, and executive, in himself.

The general congress of the United Provinces, assembled at Buenos Ayres on the 3d of December, of 1817, established, by a provisional statute, a temporary form of government, which will be found in Appendix marked E.

This congress is composed of deputies from the different provinces. It actually consists of twenty-six members. But as a representative is allowed for every fifteen thousand citizens, it would be more numerous if all the provinces had sent delegates in that ratio of population.

With some exceptions, and particularly of that palladium of our rights, which is unknown to the civil law, the trial by jury, the provisional constitution will be found, on an attentive perusal, to contain a distinct recognition of many of the vital principles of free government. A church establishment, also, that of the catholic faith, is contrary to our ideas of religious freedom; though a measure adopted from necessity, perhaps, by them.

It declares that all power, legislative, judicial, and executive, resides in the nation. The congress are to be chosen by electors, who are to be voted for by the people in the primary assemblies. The cabildos, or municipalities, are to be elected immediately by the citizens. It recognises the independence of the judiciary, and declares the tenure of office, with respect to the superior judges, to be during good behavior. It provides for the election of a chief magistrate by congress, removable when they choose to appoint a successor, and responsible for the execution of the

duties of his office, which are defined and limited. In the oath of office, he is sworn to preserve the integrity and independence of the country.

The three great departments of state, of the treasury, and of war, are distinctly marked out, and their respective powers and duties assigned.

On some subjects, it enters more into detail than is usual with us, particularly in those of their army, navy, and militia. But this, perhaps, in their situation, was necessary.

It provides that no citizen shall accept a title of nobility, without forfeiting the character of citizenship.

It provides also against general warrants, and the arrest of individuals, unless on probable proof of guilt.

It contains a salutary provision that a judge, having original jurisdiction, before taking cognizance of a cause, shall use all possible means of reconciling the parties. This constitution is but temporary. The congress are engaged in the task of forming a permanent one. In the mean time no alteration can be made in the present, unless with the consent of two-thirds of the members. In this manner some alterations have been adopted.

The subject of a permanent constitution was before a committee of sixteen members of congress. There was a difference of opinion prevailing among them, on the point of a confederated or a consolidated government. If they should adopt the former, they will frame the constitution, in all probability, nearly after the model of that of the United States. Should they decide on the latter, it is highly probable they will incorporate the leading features of our system into their form of government. They seem to concur in the proposition to have a chief magistrate elected for a term of years, and a representative legislature to consist of two branches. A senate, to constitute the most permanent body, and a house of representatives, whose term of service will be of shorter duration.

Perhaps it would be better for them to delay the completion of this all important task, after the example of the United States, until a period of peace. Their present provisional statute is an improvement on those which preceded it; and we may expect their proposed constitution will be still more perfect, as they advance in the knowledge of those principles on which republican governments are constituted.

But however free in theory this provisional statute may be, it is undoubtedly true, that unless administered agreeably to its letter and spirit, it will not afford security to the citizen. Whether any infractions have occurred since the date of its existence, I cannot pretend to determine, not being in full possession of the facts.

When we recollect that they have the benefit of our example, it may reasonably be expected that they will, in general, adhere to their written constitution. They have also the fatal result of the French revolution, warning them of the dangers of its excesses, of which they appear to be sensible.

The productions and the manufactures of the different provinces will be found in Appendix D, but I was unable to procure any satisfactory estimates of the probable value or amount in each province. There is, however, a considerable internal trade carried on in the interchange of

various articles between the several provinces; cattle, horses, and mules, furnish a considerable source of barter; with the latter, Peru is usually supplied: the Paraguay tea is a great article of trade throughout the country; the brandy, wine, raisins, and figs, of Mendoza and San Juan, are becoming important; the hides of oxen, the skins of the vacunia and granaco, with a number of fine furs, afford valuable articles of exchange. These, with the foreign goods, transported in every direction from Buenos Ayres very readily, by oxen and mules, which also furnish the means of carrying their native productions to their sea ports, form a branch of trade of great magnitude, considering the population of the country.

Their exports are calculated, with some degree of accuracy, at ten millions of dollars. These consist, principally, of ox hides, jerk beef, and tallow, the present great staples of the country. A variety of furs and peltry, some grain, copper, mostly brought from Chile; with gold and silver in bullion, and in coin, chiefly from the mines of Potosi.

The imports are computed to be about equal to their exports. British manufactures form the principal mass, and they are to be had in great abundance. They consist of woollen and cotton goods of every description; some of them wrought to imitate the manufactures of the country; ironmongery, cutlery, hardware, saddlery, hats, porter, ale, and cheese, are among the remaining articles.

From the United States they receive lumber of all kinds, and furniture of every description, coaches, and carriages of all sorts, codfish, mackerel, shad, and herring, leather, boots, and shoes, powder, and munitions of war, and naval stores, ships, and vessels, particularly those calculated for their navy or for privateers.

From Brasil they receive sugar, coffee, cotton, and rum.

From the north of Europe they receive steel and iron, and from France a number of articles of its manufacture.

Their foreign commerce is principally carried on by British capitalists, though there are some Americans, a few French, and other foreign merchants, also settled at Buenos Ayres; they are all placed, I believe, on the same footing of equality.

The revenue of the state may be estimated at about three millions of dollars annually; but their system of finance is very imperfect; and although their debt is small, their credit is low; they have hitherto avoided the issuing of paper money, and they have established no bank; but they have sometimes anticipated their revenue, by giving due bills receivable in payment for duties, or goods imported, or articles exported; the impost furnishes the principal part of the revenue. A copy of their tariff, as at first established, was some time since transmitted, I believe, to the Department of State. In this the duties were generally specific and high. I understand they have been lately reduced, as their exorbitancy had occasioned much smuggling.

Voluntary contributions from those friendly to the revolution, and forced loans from the old Spaniards, have constituted another portion of their funds. To show the public capital adequate to all exigencies, their different civil, military, and naval establishments, have been taken into view, and are comprised in the estimate furnished, a thing unusual with us; but they have omitted their

public lands, which, if a prudent use were made of them, must, at no distant day, become a very productive source of revenue to the state.

The mines of Potosi, which, in all probability, will very soon fall into their hands again, may furnish them with a considerable supply of the precious metals. It is stated, on respectable authority, that so late as the year 1790, the amount of gold and silver coined at Potosi in that year, was calculated to have been \$ 299,846 in gold, and \$ 2,983,176 in silver.

The state of their army, and the condition of their navy, will be seen by a reference to the original return presented. (Appendix F.)*

Their army is composed of regular troops, Ciorcos, and militia. In one or other of these classes, they are educated to the military art; and, as far as I had an opportunity, and was capable of judging, they appeared to be well acquainted with the elements of their profession. Their forces, according to the paper furnished, are estimated at nearly thirty thousand men. They are composed of 1,296 artillery, 13,693 infantry, and 14,718 cavalry; of which 12,143 are troops of the line, 7,041 are Ciorcos, and 10,573 militia. These form the different armies of the center of Peru, of the Andes, of Cordova, and the auxiliary forces in the Entre Rios. This statement, however, only includes the militia of the province of Buenos Ayres itself. Their supply of arms and munitions of war is ample, as will be seen by the statement annexed on that subject.

Their navy is small, and some of their vessels are laid up in ordinary. A list of them, as well as of their privateers, will be found in Appendix F. Their private armed vessels are subjected to very strict regulations, agreeably to their prize code, which is among the original papers presented and herewith delivered. It may be proper, in this place, to introduce the subject of the irregular conduct of the privateers under the patriot flag, against which the commissioners were directed to remonstrate. Having taken an opportunity of explaining to Mr. Tagle, the secretary of state, the proceedings of our government relative to Amelia Island and Galveztown, agreeably to their instructions the commissioners embraced a suitable occasion to urge the just cause of complaint, which the malpractices of private armed vessels, wearing the patriot colors, had furnished our government; on both topics they had long and interesting conversations. With the conduct of the government respecting Amelia Island and Galveztown, Mr. Tagle expressed himself perfectly satisfied, and he disclaimed for his government any privity or participation in the lodgements made at those places, by persons acting in the name of the patriots of South America. In reference to the acts of cruizers under the patriotic flags, he said he was sensible that great irregularities had occurred, though his government had done every thing in their power to prevent them, and were willing, if any instance of aggression were pointed out, to direct an inquiry into the case, and if the facts were established, to punish those concerned, and redress the injured individuals. He professed his readiness to adopt any measures that would more effectually prevent a recurrence of such acts, in which he expressed his belief, that the privateers of Buenos Ayres had rarely participated, though the character of the government had suffered from the conduct of

* The document referred to is not sent.

others. He stated that they had, on one occasion, sent out some of their public vessels to examine all cruizers wearing the Buenos Ayrean flag, to see that they were lawfully commissioned, and to ascertain whether they had violated their instructions.

Among the causes of dissatisfaction, to which I have alluded, the preponderance of the capital has been mentioned. Its great weight in the scale of national affairs, is to be ascribed to its greater exertions in the national cause. These are owing to its comparative wealth, and to its active, intelligent, and enterprising population. The armies that have been raised in this city and the neighboring country, with the supplies in money and munitions of war drawn from these sources, have been truly extraordinary.

It would be a difficult task to make an exact calculation, or to form a probable estimate, but all seemed to concede the superior merit claimed on account of their exertions, when compared with their wealth and population: and it is not unlikely that Buenos Ayres has, in consequence, assumed a higher tone, and acquired a controlling influence which she has sometimes abused.

Another source of discontent is, the unfortunate dispute between the Banda Oriental and Buenos Ayres, which had also an influence on the proceedings of the latter towards the Portuguese.

The original cause of division may be traced to a jealousy, long subsisting, between the rival cities of Monte Video and Buenos Ayres. This has become habitual, and has extended to the country. Private interests and personal views have also increased their dissensions.

General Artigas (who bears the character of chief of the Orientals, as has been already stated, and has also assumed that of the protector of the Entre Rios and Santa Fe) was originally, in the royal service, a captain in a provincial corps. In this he continued for some time after the revolution had commenced at Buenos Ayres. But in the year 1811, taking offence, as it is said, at some conduct of the Spanish commandant of Colonia, he abandoned the royal cause, and entered into the service of the patriots. So early as the year 1813, when acting against Monte Video, he became dissatisfied with Sarraute, the commander in chief from Buenos Ayres. On his removal from the head of the army, he quarrelled with general Rondeau, who, it was supposed, would have been acceptable to him, and finally withdrew, before the siege of Monte Video was finished under general Alvear. For this conduct, Posadas, when he succeeded to the government, treated him as a deserter from their service. By a proclamation he offered a reward for his apprehension, and set a price upon his head: an act which general Artigas never forgot or forgave.

During the subsequent directorship of Alvear, he induced the Cabildo of Buenos Ayres to issue a similar proclamation against general Artigas. When Alvear was dismissed, the people of Buenos Ayres endeavored to atone for their conduct by burning, with every mark of ignominy, the degrading proclamation. They also addressed a conciliatory letter to the general, and received from him a corresponding answer. These were preliminary to a fruitless attempt at reconciliation, made by the director *ad interim*, colonel Alvarez, who succeeded Alvear. The correspondence on this occasion is annexed. (Appendix H.) Other endeavors to reconcile him have failed, notwith-

standing the changes in the office of director at Buenos Ayres. On one occasion, the proposition was made that the Banda Oriental should remain independent of Buenos Ayres, and merely send deputies to the general congress, to concert measures against the common enemy. On another, when the Portuguese army was approaching the frontiers of the Banda Oriental, an effort was made by Pueyrredon to reconcile him, and to unite him in the common defence. Ample supplies of arms, and munitions of war, were offered, and some furnished, but this attempt also failed.

In order that a fuller view of this subject may be had, I have subjoined a translated copy of an animated letter from general Artigas to Mr. Pueyrredon. (Appendix I.) It is but justice to add, that general Artigas is thought by persons entitled to credit, to be a firm friend to the independence of the country. To express a decided opinion on this delicate question, would scarcely be expected of me, as my position did not command a view of the whole ground. I had not the satisfaction to be derived from a personal interview with general Artigas, who is, unquestionably, a man of rare and singular talents. But if I were to hazard a conjecture, I think it not improbable, that in this, as in most family disputes, there have been faults on both sides. It is to be lamented that they are in open hostility. The war has been prosecuted with great animosity, and in two late engagements the troops of Buenos Ayres have been defeated with great loss. By some it is said that the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore were anxious that a reconciliation should take place, whilst the people of the country preferred their present state.

I must not omit to take a glance at the situation of Paraguay. This province presents a singular spectacle. It stands aloof from the rest.—The people, with the aid of the few remaining royal troops, repulsed an army sent to compel them to join the common standard. Very soon afterwards they expelled the royalists and set up for themselves. Since this period they appear to have adopted a partial non-intercourse system. But Buenos Ayres, on one occasion, succeeded in obtaining an understanding with them. Some suspect that they are secretly inimical to the existing order of things, and wish to keep themselves within their shell in case of a change, that they may profit by future events; others calculate, with some confidence, on their ultimate union with Buenos Ayres, with which, at present, they indulge a limited and reluctant intercourse. Paraguay is under the immediate control of a person named Francia, who styles himself dictator of Paraguay.

From the domestic concerns of the provinces, we naturally turn to their foreign relations. On this subject the commissioners were informed that they had nothing more than a friendly understanding with any foreign nation. With the Portuguese government they concluded an arrangement in 1812, under the mediation, it is said, of the British, with respect to the Banda Oriental.—They have since had a correspondence with them on the subject of their entrance into that province, and the forcible occupation, by a Portuguese army, of the city of Monte Video, of which a copy is annexed. (Appendix J.) This will present the state of affairs between Buenos Ayres and the Brasil, which has been the theme of much

discussion. The superior naval force of the Portuguese stationed in the river La Plata, could have effectually blockaded all the ports of Buenos Ayres. By this means they would have prevented supplies of arms and munitions of war, and entirely destroyed the great source of revenue to the state, the duties on imports and tonnage, at a season when money was much wanted. For, about this period, Buenos Ayres had a powerful army to contend with on the side of Peru, and had taken the burden of the renewed contest of Chile with Spain. Under such circumstances they were, in some measure, obliged to adopt a cautious and moderate policy. Their conduct in this respect seems to have been coerced. Their unhappy state with the Orientals had also an influence on their measures. They alleged that the restless conduct of Artigas had furnished the Portuguese with a pretext for the invasion; but it is probable they will ultimately break with the government of Brasil.

The British government have, through their official agents, entered into commercial stipulations with general Artigas, as the chief of the Orientals, on the subject of their trade with the eastern shore. A copy of this instrument will be found in appendix K.

The government of Buenos Ayres have a confidential person in Europe, soliciting from England and other powers, it is said, assistance of every kind, and a recognition of their independence.—England has a consul, who, with her naval commander on that station, appeared to conduct the confidential affairs of the British cabinet with the government of Buenos Ayres.

What effects the victory of Maipu will produce abroad, it would be hazardous in me to conjecture. Whether, like the capture of Burgoyne, it will procure for the United Provinces foreign alliances, I cannot pretend to say.

From a source which is entitled to credit, I was informed that the raising and embarkation of Osorio's army in Peru was not accomplished without serious difficulties. Alternate force and persuasion were used to collect them, and nothing but the name, character, and promises of their general could have induced them to go on board of the vessels prepared for the purpose at the port of Callao. Some of them were actually in a state of mutiny, notwithstanding they were told they would be received with open arms by their brethren in Chile.

The forces finally embarked, agreeably to an account furnished by a gentleman of undoubted veracity on the spot, consisted of the following troops:

1 Company of artillery	- -	70
1 Ditto sappers and miners	- -	81
Regiment of Bargas	- -	900
Ditto of San Carlos infantry	- -	907
Ditto of Arequipa	- -	1,000
Arequipa dragoons	- -	160
Lamas	- -	144
		<hr/>
		3,262

This army was composed of all the regular soldiers they could spare from Lima, who were united at Talcaguala, to the royal forces left in Chile. By the battle of Maipu it has ceased to exist.—The probable effects in Peru, and other parts of South America, may be conjectured, but cannot be affirmed. The same gentleman who has been

mentioned, and who is conversant in Peruvian affairs, apprehended that important changes would result.

I cannot conclude this paper without drawing your attention to a rapid survey of the reforms and improvements in the province of Buenos Ayres produced by the revolution, and its influence on knowledge, society, and manners.

The effects of the revolution are visible in the changes produced in the state of society. The difference in the freedom of acting and thinking, which preceded the revolution, must necessarily be great. The freedom of commerce must have given a spring to exertions of native enterprise and intelligence, while the active scenes of war and politics, for the last ten years, have awakened the genius of the country which had so long slumbered. The generation now on the stage may almost be said to have been reared under a new order of things. The common stock of ideas among the people has been greatly augmented, the natural consequence of the important political events, which daily transpire, and in which every man, like the citizen of Athens, feels an interest. The newspapers are every where circulated, together with the manifestoes of the government, which is obliged to court the approbation of public opinion on all measures of moment. It is not very unusual for the same countryman, who, a few years ago never troubled himself about any thing beyond the narrow circle of his domestic concerns, to purchase a newspaper on coming to town, as a matter of course, and if unable to read, to request the first one he meets to do him that favor. The country curates are, moreover, enjoined to read the newspapers and manifestoes regularly to their flocks. The spirit of improvement may be seen in every thing. Even some of those who are under the influence of strong prejudices against the revolution, frequently remark the changes for the better which have taken place. Their habits, manners, dress, and mode of living, have been improved by intercourse with strangers and the free introduction of foreign customs, particularly English, American, and French.—Great prejudices prevail against whatever is Spanish. It is even offensive to them to be called by this name: they prefer to be identified with the aborigines of the country. The appellation which they have assumed, and in which they take a pride, is that of South Americans.

A powerful stimulus must necessarily have been given to their industry by two important circumstances, the diminution in prices of foreign merchandise, and the great increase in value of the products of the country with the consequent rise of property. Though the grounds in the neighborhood of cities are highly improved, as I have already stated, agriculture, comparatively speaking, is in a low condition. In general, the lands are badly tilled. The plough is rarely used, and the substitute is a very indifferent one. But, notwithstanding the disadvantages of the present method of culture, I was informed by reputable persons, that the average crop of wheat is not less than fifty bushels per acre, in good seasons.

On the subject of religion especially, the change in the public mind has been very great. The catholic faith is established as that of the state; but there are many advocates, both in conversation and in writing, of universal toleration. Some members of congress are said to be strongly in favor of it; but the ignorant and superstitious

part of the people, together with the regular clergy, would not be satisfied with such a measure; while the liberality prevailing among the better informed classes, is such as to secure a virtual toleration for the present. Besides, from the circumstance of there being no sects in the country, such a provision may wait the progress of liberality in public opinion. In fact, the human mind has been set free on all matters of a general abstract nature, although the liberty of the press is circumscribed, in some degree, with respect to strictures on public measures and men, and the established religion: but there is neither inquisition nor previous license. They acknowledge the pope as a spiritual head merely, and do not think him entitled to any authority to interfere in their temporal concerns. His bull in favor of the king of Spain against the colonists, which may be almost regarded as an excommunication, produced little or no sensation.

The number of monks and nuns never were very great in Buenos Ayres, when compared with other portions of the Spanish dominions. They have diminished since the revolution. There was, at one time, a positive law passed forbidding any one to become a monk or a nun: but they were obliged to repeal it, and it was afterwards passed with some modifications. The restrictions substituted, aided by public opinion, have nearly produced the desired effect. Few of the youth of the country apply themselves to the study of theology, since other occupations, much more tempting to their ambition, have been opened to their choice. Formerly the priesthood was the chief aim of young men of the best families, who were desirous of distinction; as, in fact, it constituted almost the only profession to which those who had received a liberal education could devote themselves; which will readily account for the circumstance of so many of the secular clergy directing their attention, at present, almost exclusively to politics. The regular clergy, who are not permitted, by the nature of their profession, to take part in the business of the world, or to hold secular offices, are many of them Europeans: but those of them who are natives, take the same lively interest in passing events with the other classes of the community.

They have gone cautiously to work in reforms, in the different branches of their municipal laws, and the administration of them. The number of offices has been considerably diminished, and responsibility rendered more direct and severe. The judiciary system has undergone many improvements, and nearly all the leading features of the law, which did not harmonize with the principles of free government, have been expunged, though some of the former evils still remain. The barbarous impositions on the aborigines have been abolished. The odious alcavalla, and other obnoxious taxes modified so as no longer to be vexatious: slavery and the slave trade forbidden in future; and all titles of nobility prohibited under the pain of the loss of citizenship. The law of primogeniture is also expunged from their system. In the provisional statute, as has already been stated, nearly all the principles of free representative government are recognised, accompanied, it is true, with certain drawbacks, for which they plead the necessity of the times, but which they profess their intention to do away on the final settlement of the government: a consummation anxiously desired by all classes of inhabitants.—

The example of France has warned them not to attempt too much at first: they have followed the plan of the United States in the introduction of gradual reforms, instead of resorting to violent and sudden innovations and revolutions.

Next to the establishment of their independence by arms, the education of their youth appears to be the subject of the most anxious interest. They complain, that every possible impediment was thrown in the way of education previous to the revolution: that so far from fostering public institutions for this purpose, several schools were actually prohibited in the capital, and the young men were not, without restraint, permitted to go abroad for their education. There was a college at Cordova, at which those destined for the bar, or the priesthood, completed their studies, upon the ancient monkish principles. Another called San Carlos, (now the Union of the South,) had been opened at Buenos Ayres, but was afterwards converted into barracks for soldiers. It is an immense building, more extensive, perhaps, than any which has been dedicated to learning in this country; and it has lately been fitted up at very great expense. The school was to have opened in May or June last, on a more modern and liberal plan of discipline and instruction. The library of the state is kept in an adjoining building; it occupies a suit of six rooms, and contains nearly twenty thousand volumes: the greater part rare and valuable. It is formed out of the library of the Jesuits, the books collected in the different monasteries, donations from individuals, and an annual appropriation by the government, and contains works on all subjects and in all languages of the polished nations of Europe. A very valuable addition has been lately made of several thousand volumes, brought to Buenos Ayres by M. Bonpland, the companion of the celebrated Humboldt.

Besides the University of Cordova, at which there are about one hundred and fifty students, there are public schools in all the principal towns, supported by their respective corporations. In Buenos Ayres, besides an academy, in which are taught the higher branches, and the college before mentioned, there are eight public schools, for whose support the corporation contributes about seven thousand dollars annually, and, according to the return of last year, the number of scholars amounted to eight hundred and sixty-four. There are five other schools, exclusively for the benefit of the poor, and under the charge of the different monasteries; these are supplied with books and stationery at the public expense. There are also parish schools in the country, for the support of which a portion of the tithes has been lately set apart. It is rare to meet with a boy ten or twelve years of age, in the city of Buenos Ayres, who cannot read and write. Besides the scholars thus instructed, many have private tutors. In addition to all this, I must not omit to mention the military academies supported by government at Buenos Ayres and Tucuman, at which there are a considerable number of cadets.

There are no prohibited books of any kind; all are permitted to circulate freely, or be openly sold in the book-stores; among them is the new testament in Spanish. This alone is a prodigious step towards the emancipation of their minds from prejudices. There are several book-stores whose profits have rapidly increased; a proof that the numbers of readers has augmented in the same

proportion. There had been a large importation of English books, a language becoming daily more familiar to them. Eight years ago, the mechanic art of printing was scarcely known at Buenos Ayres: at present, there are three printing offices, one of them very extensive, containing four presses. The price of printing is, notwithstanding, at least three times higher than in the United States: but, as there is no trade or intercourse with Spain, all school-books used in the country, some of them original, are published at Buenos Ayres; the business is, therefore, profitable, and rapidly extending. There are many political essays, which, instead of being inserted in the newspapers, are published in loose sheets: there are also original pamphlets, as well as republishings of foreign works. The constitution of the United States, and of the different states, together with a very good history of our country; and many of our most important state papers are widely circulated. The work of Dean Funes, the venerable historian of the country, comprised in three large octavo volumes, considering the infancy of the typographic art in this part of the world, may be regarded as an undertaking of some magnitude.

There are three weekly journals or newspapers published in the city, which have an extensive circulation through the United Provinces. They all advocate the principles of liberty and republican forms of government, as none other would suit the public taste. The year before last, it is true, one of the papers ventured to advocate the restoration of the Incas of Peru with a limited monarchy, but it was badly received. No proposition for the restoration of hereditary power of any kind, as far as I could learn, will be seriously listened to for a moment, by the people. Even the ordinary language has changed. They speak of "the state," "the people," "the public," "country," and use other terms, as in the United States, implying the interest that each man takes in what appertains to the community. The first principle constantly inculcated is, "that all power rightfully emanates from the people." This, and similar dogmas, form a part of the education of children, taught at the same time with their catechism. It is natural that the passion for free government should be continually increasing. A fact may be mentioned to show the solid advancement they have made, which is, that the number of votes taken at their elections increases every year. In becoming habituated to this peaceful and orderly mode of exercising their right of choosing those who are to be invested with authority, the tumultuous and irregular removal, by a kind of general oratory or acclamation, of those who have been chosen, will gradually cease.

Rather than disturb the order of society, they will endure with patience, until the time arrives, for effecting a regular and constitutional change. Since the election of the present director, none of these tumults, before so frequent, have occurred. These tumults have seldom been attended with bloodshed; yet they produce great confusion and disorder, and give rise to habits of insubordination, at the same time that they are ruinous to the character of a nation.

The vice-royalty of Buenos Ayres differed from the rest in one important particular. It contained no nobility, or, if any, very few. This may be regarded as a favorable circumstance in their society. Another favorable feature, very necessary to the successful administration of their affairs, is

the conduct of many individuals who have filled the highest offices of state, in descending from that dignified situation to inferior posts, and discharging their duties with alacrity. Thus we behold general A. Balcarce, who was formerly director, acting as second in command to colonel San Martin. Colonel Alvarez, also a director at one period, now serving in the staff under the chief of that department. General Azcuénaga, and general Rondeau, once elected to the chair of state, are at present employed in minor offices. There are others who have occupied the same elevated post, who have retired to the station of private citizens.

The general capacities of the United Provinces for national defence are also important in many respects: the nature and extent of the country, afford the inhabitants numerous advantages over an invading army: the ease with which their herds of cattle may be driven to distant places, beyond the reach of an enemy, and the rapid movements the troops of the country can make, from the ample supply of horses and mules, are circumstances of great consequence in a military view. Even the towns not fortified, from the manner in which they are built, and from the construction of their houses, furnish powerful means of defence, as the British army under general Whitlock experienced in their attack on Buenos Ayres.

I am sensible that, in the course of these statements and remarks, some inaccuracies and errors must have occurred, but they have been unintentional. I have only to add, that the reception of the commissioners at Buenos Ayres by the chief magistrate was friendly and flattering.

From every class they met with a cordial welcome. The people, in general, appeared to be very much attached to the American character, and to the government and citizens of the United States.

Should any thing further occur, it shall be made the subject of a future paper.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

C. A. RODNEY.

Congress of the United States.

SENATE.

Friday, November 20.

The Senate proceeded to the appointment, by ballot, of the standing committees of that body; when there were elected,

For the committee of Foreign Relations—Messrs. Macon, Barbour, King, Lacock, and Daggett.

On Finance—Messrs. Eppes, Talbot, King, Macon, and Eaton.

On Commerce and Manufactures—Messrs. Sanford, Dickerson, Burrill, Horsey, and Morrill.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Williams of Ten. Lacock, Tichenor, Taylor, and Storer.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Sanford, Tait, Williams of Mississippi, Daggett, and Crittenden.

On the Militia—Messrs. Ruggles, Noble, Roberts, Macon, and Storer.

On Public Lands—Messrs. Morrow, Williams of Miss. Taylor, Hunter, and Johnson.

On Claims—Messrs. Goldsborough, Wilson, Roberts, Ruggles, and Morrill.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Burrill, Crittenden, Otis, Smith, and Leake.

On the Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs. Stokes, Wilson, Palmer, Mellen, and Ruggles.

On Pensions—Messrs. Lacock, Noble, Vanduyke, Talbot, and Storer.

On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Goldsborough, Daggett, Barbour, Eppes, and Hanson.

Messrs. Morrow, Williams of Ten. Williams of Miss. Taylor, and Crittenden, were appointed a committee on Indian affairs.

Monday, November 23.

The motion submitted by Mr. Sanford, for an inquiry into the expediency of amending the law so that the President's signature should not be necessary to patents for land, was taken up and agreed to.

Tuesday, November 24.

Mr. Fromentin submitted a resolution requesting of the President of the United States such information as he may possess, not heretofore communicated, touching the execution of so much of the first article of the late treaty of peace between his Britannic majesty and the United States, as relates to the restitution of slaves.

Mr. Noble submitted a resolution to instruct the committee on public lands to inquire into the expediency of continuing in force, until the 31st of March, 1821, the act "to suspend for a limited time the sale or forfeiture of lands for failure in completing the payments thereon."

Mr. Mellen submitted a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing by law a circuit court of the United States, to be holden at Portland, in the District of Maine.

Mr. Dickerson, leave being given, introduced a bill to provide for the removal of the library of Congress to the north wing of the Capitol.

Wednesday, November 25.

Mr. Barbour, agreeably to notice, and leave being given, introduced a bill to increase the salaries of certain officers of the government.

Mr. Sanford offered certain resolutions of the legislature of the state of New York, instructing its Senators, and requesting its Representatives, to endeavor to procure the adoption of the amendment to the constitution, proposed by North Carolina, for districting the states by an uniform rule for the election of Representatives and Electors of President and Vice President; and the same were read.

Mr. Storer offered certain like proceedings of the legislature of the state of New Hampshire, in respect to a proposition (to the same effect as that above referred to) made by New Jersey; and the same were received and read.

Agreeably to notice, and leave being given, Mr. Goldsborough introduced a resolution to erect a monument over the remains of the late general George Washington, where they now lie; and the same was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. Williams, of Tennessee, offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing the pay of the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, of the army of the United States.

The three resolutions submitted yesterday by Mr. Fromentin, Mr. Noble, and Mr. Mellen, were severally taken up and agreed to.

Thursday, November 26.

The President communicated a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, in conformity to

a resolution of the Senate, of March 17th, 1818, a report showing the organization and strength of the militia of the several states and territories, as far as returns have been made, together with such militia laws as have been received at that department; which letter and report were read and referred to the committee on military affairs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, November 20.

The following committees, in addition to those already announced, have been appointed:

Committee of Accounts.—Messrs. Little, Bennett and Darlington.

On the Constitution of the State of Illinois.—Messrs. Anderson of Ky. Poindexter, Hendricks.

The following committees, having been appointed at the last session, are yet in existence, by a special rule:

Of Expenditures in the Department of State.—Messrs. Forsyth, Hasbrouck, Scudder.

Of Expenditures in the Treasury Department.—Messrs. Lowndes, Allen of Vt. Marchand.

Of Expenditures in the War Department.—Messrs. Johnson of Ky. Tucker of S. C. and Herkimer.

Of Expenditures in the Navy Department.—Messrs. Pleasants, Storrs, Sampson.

Of Expenditures in the Post Office.—Messrs. Hubbard, Huntington. [One vacancy, by resignation of Mr. Ingham.]

Of Expenditures on the Public Buildings.—Messrs. Tucker of Va. Drake, Orr.

[Of the committee on the Post Office, Mr. Settle is a member, and not Mr. Little, as formerly stated.]

Among the petitions to day, was one presented by the Speaker, from Matthew Lyon, of the State of Kentucky, praying remuneration for the deprivation of liberty and exaction of a penalty from him, being then a Representative in Congress from the State of Vermont, under the sedition law of 1798, and which he is induced by misfortunes, which have made him poor, to ask from Congress.

On motion of Mr. Spencer, of N. Y. the petition was read through, and was then referred to the committee on the judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Rhea, of Tennessee, the Message of the President of the United States, of Jan. 18, 1816, recommending the confirmation of certain grants or reservation of lands, by the friendly Creek Indians, to Major General Andrew Jackson, Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, and others, was referred to the committee on private land claims.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, of Mississippi, the committee of Public Lands were directed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting the emigration and settlement of the Choctaw tribe of Indians on the lands of the United States West of the Mississippi, until they shall have acquired that right by treaty with the United States, founded on a cession of land by said Indians East of the Mississippi.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, the committee of Ways and Means were instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the duty on Salt imported into the United States.

Monday, November 23.

The Speaker laid before the house a communication from the Navy Department, accompanied by sundry documents in relation to the Navy Pension Fund; which was referred to the committee on Naval Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Harrison, a committee was appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the employment of an additional number of clerks in the War Department, not exceeding twelve.

Tuesday, November 24.

The following committees have been appointed, in addition to those already announced. viz.

On allowing to the territory of Michigan a Delegate to Congress.—Messrs. Johnson of Ky. Beecher, Patterson.

On the memorial of Wm. Lambert, respecting the establishment of a First Meridian for the United States.—Messrs. Nelson, Folger, Seybert, Crawford and Bateman.

On the memorial of the surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary army.—Messrs. Johnson of Ky. Simkins, Mercer, Hopkinson and Spencer.

On a code of jurisprudence for the District of Columbia.—Messrs. Herbert, Culbreth, Garnett, Williams of Cont. and Adams.

On appointing additional clerks for the War Department.—Messrs. Harrison, Pegram, Comstock.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill concerning the Western District Court of Pennsylvania; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the same committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Matthew Lyon, praying a reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the prosecution under the act of Congress of July, 1798, commonly called the sedition law, he then being a representative in Congress from the state of Vermont—made a report thereon, that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

Mr. Hopkinson under the instruction of the Judiciary committee, reported a bill to establish an uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States.

Mr. Harrison, from the committee to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill to increase the number of clerks in the Department of war; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the select committee, to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill to authorize the election of a Delegate from the Michigan territory to Congress, and extending the right of suffrage to the people of said territory; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Taylor introduced a resolution authorizing the franking of the documents accompanying the President's late Message; which was read three times, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, the committee of Commerce and Manufactures were instructed to inquire into the expediency of giving effect to a law of the state of Mississippi, levying a tax for the use of the Natchez Hospital.

Mr. Spencer, of New York, moved that the committee appointed at the last session, to inquire into the Judicial conduct of the Judges of the District Courts of New York and Georgia, be discharged from the further consideration of so much of the business as relates to Wm. Stephens, of Georgia, in consequence of his resignation of the office of District Judge, by which the objects of that inquiry had been accomplished.

Wednesday, November 25.

Mr. Spencer, of New York, offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to in-

spect the books, and examine into the proceedings of the Bank of the United States, and to report whether the provisions of its charter have been violated or not, and particularly to report whether the instalments of the capital stock of the said bank have been paid in gold and silver coin, and in the funded debt of the United States, or whether they were in any instance, and to what amount, paid by the proceeds of the notes of stockholders discounted for the purpose; and also to report the names of those persons who now own or who have owned any part of the capital stock of the said bank, and the amount of discounts, if any, to such persons respectively, and when made; and also to report whether the said bank, or any of its offices of discount and deposit, have refused to pay the notes of the bank in specie on demand, and have refused to receive, in payments of debts due to them or either of them, the notes of the bank, and whether the bank, or any of its offices of discount, or any of their officers or agents, have sold drafts upon other offices, or upon the bank, at an advance, and have received a premium for such drafts; also the amount of the notes issued, payable at Philadelphia, and at each office of discount respectively, and the amount of capital assigned to each office, together with the amount of the public deposits made at the bank and at each office, and on account of the transfers thereof; and the total amount of bills and notes discounted by the bank and its several offices since its organization. That the said committee have leave to meet in the city of Philadelphia, and to remain there as long as may be necessary; that they shall have power to send for persons and papers, and to employ the requisite clerks, the expense of which shall be audited and allowed by the committee of accounts, and paid out of the contingent fund of this House.

On motion of Mr. Silsbee, the committee of Ways and Means were instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing, in cases of exportation of goods entitled to debenture, the same time (of twenty days) for completing the export entry and oath, as is allowed by the act of the 20th April last, for executing the export bonds, in lieu of ten days within which it is now required that the said oath and entry shall be completed.

Thursday, Nov. 26.

On motion of Mr. Butler, a committee was ordered to be appointed to bring in a bill granting a pension to major general John Stark.

The engrossed bill to prevent the discontinuance of suits in the Western District Court of Pennsylvania, and that for the appointment of additional clerks to the War Office, were read a third time, passed, and sent to the senate for concurrence.

The following message was received from the president of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his secretary:

To the House of Representatives
of the United States.

I lay before the House of Representatives a report from the commissioner of the public buildings, made in compliance with a resolution of the senate, of the 28th of January last, requiring a statement of the expenditures upon the Public Buildings, and an account of their progress, to be annually exhibited to Congress.

JAMES MONROE.

[The report from the Commissioner transmits to the President the following statement of ex-

penditures during the last year, and two statements, from Mr. Bulfinch and Mr. Hoban, of the progress made in the Public Buildings during the present year.]

Amount of disbursements made by Samuel Lane, Commissioner of the Public Buildings, from the 1st of October, 1817, to the 1st of Oct. 1818.

On account of the wings of the capital	304,549 87
Centre of the capital	4,071 05
President's House	44,150 34
Offices to president's house	1,373 74
Graduating president's square	3,442 19
Additional executive offices	59,521 41
Contingent expenses	3,871 82

Errors excepted 320,680 42

SAMUEL LANE,
Commissioner of Public Buildings.

The message was read, and, with its enclosures, referred to the committee on public buildings.

MISCELLANY.

The Shepherds of the Landes.

From the *Petersburgh Intelligencer*.

Travellers have amused us with accounts of savage tribes so far removed from civilized life as to move or walk on their hands and feet like the brute animal; but this is not so surprising as to be informed that in a district of France, the most civilized country in Europe, the inhabitants walk on stilts, which raise them from three to five feet above the surface. This district is called the Landes, and lies in the south of France, between the mouth of the Adour and the Gironde, along the sea coast, and according to tradition was once the bed of the sea itself, which flowed in as far as Dax. Through this district the British guards attached to the army of Wellington marched from Bayonne, at the conclusion of the war in June, 1814, to embark for Bordeaux. An officer of the guards has published an account of the singular inhabitants of this part of France seldom visited by travellers.—The men generally lead the life of the Shepherd, but the women as well as the men always walk on stilts, striding over the earth like storks. These stilts are made in the following manner. The foot rests on a surface adapted to its sole, carved out of the solid wood, and from three to five feet above the ground. A flat part shaped to the outside of the leg, and reaching to below the end of the knee, is strapped round the calf and ankle. The foot is covered by a piece of raw sheep's hide. In these stilts they move with perfect freedom, and astonishing rapidity; and they have their balance so completely, that they run, jump, stoop, and even dance, with ease and safety. The habit of using the stilts is acquired early, and it appears that the smaller the boy or girl is, the longer it is necessary to have his stilts. By means of these odd additions to the natural leg, the feet are kept out of the water, which lies deep during the winter on the sand, and from the heated sand during the summer; in addition to which the sphere of vision over so perfect a flat is materially increased by the elevation, and the shepherd can see his sheep much farther on stilts than he could on the ground.

Good effects of lime.—Mr. Cornelius Mahan, of White Plains, Pennsylvania, limed eleven acres of land, thirty-five bushels to the acre, planted the same with corn, and raised eighty-two bushels per acre, being upwards of forty bushels per acre more than was ever raised on the same land.

EDITOR'S CABINET.

History of Congress.—We closed the proceedings of Congress, in our last number, up to Thursday, the 19th instant, at which time nothing more had been done than merely organizing the two Houses and carving out the President's Message for reference to committees and for future consideration. The proceedings of the same body, from the 19th up to the 26th, inclusive, will be found in this day's Register, under the usual head. They consist chiefly of resolutions on various subjects, of more or less importance. The admission of Illinois into the Union has met with some slight opposition, principally on two grounds, viz: 1. The want of proof of the requisite amount of population in the new state; and, 2. The temporary exception in favor of slavery which its constitution contains, and which is supposed to be repugnant to the provisions of the ordinance of 1787. This opposition occurred in the House of Representatives; but it was over-ruled; and the resolution for admission was sent to the Senate, where, we have no doubt, it will also be approved. On the 24th instant the House took up one or two *orders of the day*, which, by a new rule, have survived from the last session. One of these was of a private nature: the other was a bill for erecting a separate judicial district west of the Alleghany mountain, in the state of Virginia. It passed to a third reading. The House, also, on the 26th instant, had before it a bill to prevent the discontinuance of suits in the western district court of Pennsylvania, in consequence of the court not having been held at the time appointed by law, (the judge not having received his commission in time,) and it was passed through a committee of the whole and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading. Both these bills being, as it were, of necessity, or for the convenience of the people, will no doubt forthwith be enacted into laws.

Two subjects, of very great importance, have been brought to the view of the House during the past week. The one, relating to a general bankrupt law, by Mr. Hopkinson, of Philadelphia. By direction of the judiciary committee he reported anew the bill which was reported during the last session, and which, after some debate, was, at that time, thrown out. How it may succeed in the present session is altogether uncertain. We can hardly suppose that Mr. Hopkinson has found any new arguments in its favor; for on a topic so old, novelty seems wholly out of the case. It is a question, as we conceive, between the landed and manufacturing and mechanical interests of the country on the one hand, and the commercial or trading part on the other. Whether the former will allow the latter privileges of insolvency of which they do not themselves partake, is matter

of doubt, and may likewise be matter of calculation. —The other important subject to which we allude is the resolution introduced by Mr. Spencer, of New York, for investigating the concerns of the Bank of the United States. It was scarcely necessary for that gentleman to tell the House that his motives are pure: no man will impeach them: the very moving of such a resolution, in the teeth of such a monied institution, is sufficient proof of his purity. Mr. M. Lane, of Delaware, softened a little the sharpness of this proposition, by asking for *time to consider*. This looks reasonable. But too much time should not be allowed for that purpose; for whilst the House is *considering*, the people are *feeling*, the effects of either the imbecility or the knavery of the Bank. On this occasion we cannot help recollecting how the resolutions of Mr. Forsyth on the same subject, at a former session of congress, were *softened away into nothing*. We shall closely mark the progress and fate of this resolution. When the question was up before, the *ipse dixit* of Mr. Lloyd, of Boston, was taken as to the Bank's having forfeited its charter; and, in another instance, the subject was suffered *quietly to go to sleep*. At this moment we have no general currency in the union. We have *coin*, but no currency; for there is not coin enough to furnish a currency, and resort is had to all sorts of contrivances by way of substitute. The evil has at length reached the public treasury; and government *must* act. It is as much impossible to make a national currency, whilst the present anomalous condition of State and United States' Banks continues, as it was to have a national government under the old act of confederation previously to the adoption of the constitution.

The House were occupied on Thursday, with the claim of the Heirs of Caron de Beaumarchais, a claim over which there hangs much mystery, and of which we may speak hereafter.

Foreign News.—By the latest accounts from Europe, the life of the Queen of England was despaired of. She is very aged, and her disease, a dropsy, is regarded as incurable.

The Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle convened early in October. That city is filled with sovereigns, nobles, statesmen, and persons of all descriptions from every part of Europe. It is a fine theatre for gamblers and adventurers, and must present a vast scene of dissipation.

Official Notices, &c. &c.—MR. FORSYTH, late a Representative in Congress from Georgia, has been chosen a Senator of the U. S. for that state, in the place of Mr. TROUP, who has resigned. Mr. F. has taken his seat in the Senate.

W. K. ARMISTEAD, lieutenant colonel commandant of Engineers, has, in consequence of the resignation of general SWIRT, assumed the command of that corps.